

Message Text

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63

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /042 W

----- 075139

R 221700Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7356

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAKAR 7697

BRUSSELS AND MONROVIA FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EAIR, SG

SUBJECT: ASECNA REQUEST TO VISIT U.S.

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED REQUEST FROM ASECNA DIERCTOR GENERAL THAT FAA ORGANIZE VISIT OF ASECNA OFFICIALS TO FAA FACILITIES AND US COMPANIES PRODUCING SPECIFIC METEOROLOGICAL EQUIPMENT AND AVIONICS. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS FAA/STATE/COMMERCE PREPARE POSITIVE RESPONSE.
END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL DAKAR VISIT OF FAA DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR AFRICA GORDON BENNETT AND REGIONAL FAA REP WILLIAM NEWELL, NOV 2-4, ASECNA DIRCETOR GENERAL PAUL MALEKOU HAS WRITTEN TO AMBASSADOR PROPOSING US TRIP BY ASECNA PERSONEL. PURPOSE OF VISIT WOULD BE TO TOUR FAA FACILITIES AND MAKE CONTACT WITH SUPPLIERS OF EQUIPMENT WHICH ASECNA BADLY NEEDS TO CARRY OUT ITS FLIGHT CONTROL AND AIRPORT MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS.

3. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS: DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR,
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FOLLOWING MY VISIT TO YOU LAST YEAR AT DAKAR, I WOULD LIKE

TO CONFIRM THAT ASECNA MAINTAINS GREAT INTEREST IN TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT MADE IN THE US. OUR URGENT NEEDS FOR PROFESSIONAL ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT FOR AIR NAVIGATION AND METEOROLOGY ARE QUITE EXTENSIVE. HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING HAVE A PARTICULARLY HIGH PRIORITY:

- 1) HF TRANSMITTERS AND RECEIVERS;
- 2) SATELLITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT SIMILAR TO THAT IN THE AEROSAT EXPERIMENTATION PROGRAM;
- 3) METEOROLOGICAL EQUIPMENT FOR DETECTION OF PRECIPITATION AND STORMS, IMAGE ACQUISITION EQUIPMENT FOR METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE DATA, DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT FOR METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION.

WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO VISIT THE US TO VISIT OPERATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTALLATIONS AND ALSO TO MAKE CONTACT WITH COMPANIES SPECIALIZED IN MANUFACTURERS OF ABOVE CITED EQUIPMENT. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION COULD ARRANGE THE VISIT.

IF YOU ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH THIS SUGGESTION, I WILL NAME AN ASECNA DELEGATION TO VISIT THE US DURING 1977 ACCORDING TO A SCHEDULE WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FROM YOU.

COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE, LETTER SIGNED BY PAUL MALEKOU, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ASECNA.

4. AS AGENCIES AWARE, ASECNA IS ORGANIZATION OF 14 AFRICAN STATES WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR FLIGHT SAFETY AND AIRPORT OPERATIONS IN MEMBER STATES. ORGANIZED IN 1959 UNDER FRENCH INFLUENCE, FINANCING AND DIRECTION HAS BEEN GRADUALLY TAKEN OVER BY AFRICANS. ACCORDING TO ITS STATUTES, ASECNA SHOULD BE FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT BUT HAS ALWAYS RELIED ON FRENCH SUBSIDIES WHICH HAVE BEEN OUT TO UNDER \$3 MILLION PER YEAR. AFRICAN STATES HAVE NOT BEEN PAYING THEIR ASSESSMENTS AND, AS RESULT, ORGANIZATION IS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.

5. ASECNA FIVE YEAR PLAN (76-80) CALLS FOR \$42.3 MILLION IN DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES. (COPY OF PLAN WAS GIVEN TO FAA DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR BENNETT IN 1975). OBVIOUSLY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH CUT INTO OPERATING REVENUES WILL RESTRAIN DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES AND PERHAPS EVENTUALLY COMPROMISE GENERALLY HIGH LEVEL OF ASECNA SERVICES. ASECNA HAS MADE SEVERAL LOW KEY INQUIRIES ABOUT POSSIBLE FAA SUPPORT BUT EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THEY HAVE BEEN CONVINCED THAT FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS BUT OF QUESTION. HOWEVER, LONG TERM CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH ASECNA IS VERY MUCH IN INTEREST OF US BOTH FROM POINT OF VIEW OF FLIGHT SAFETY IN AFRICA AND

SALES OF AMERICAN EQUIPMENT. EMBASSY HOPES THAT AF/W AND FAA
WILL WORK IN CLOSE CONSULTATION TO DEVELOP POSITIVE EARLY
RESPONSE TO ASECNA INITIATIVE.
AGGREY

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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FAA ORGANIZE VISIT OF ASECNA OFFICIAL
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